

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 01239 130341Z

71

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1338

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1239

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT BM

SUBJ: OPERATIONS YE NAING AUNG AND NAT MYINBYAN

1. PRESS APRIL 11 REPORTED FURTHER SERIES OF CLASHES BETWEEN BCP INSURGENTS AND BURMA ARMY OVER EIGHT-DAY PERIOD, MARCH 22-29. (SEE IR 6812003376 FOR DETAILS.) BATTLES OCCURRED IN SAME AREA OF NORTHERN SHAN STATE AS PREVIOUS BATTLES AT MONG YANG AND MONG LWE (RANGOON 1135).

2. COMMENT. NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR WHAT BATTLES WERE ABOUT, ALTHOUGH SOME SAY BCP OBJECTIVE WAS TO CUT OFF AND CAPTURE MAJOR TOWN OF KENG TUNG. VIGOROUS BURMA ARMY ACTION WILL DOUBTLESS BE SEIZED UPON BY THOSE IN POLITICAL CIRCLES WHO HAVE FAULTED GENERAL TIN OO'S AGGRESSIVENESS IN DEALING WITH BCP IN AREA CLOSE TO PRC BORDER. CAMPAIGN CAN THUS BE USED TO SUPPORT STATED SPECULATION THAT SAN YU FAVORS TILT TOWARD SOVIETS, ALTHOUGH EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT ANYONE IN GUB IS WILLING TO RISK REAL PROVOCATION OF PRC. MILITARILY, HOWEVER, WE TEND TO BELIEVE THAT LATEST OPERATIONS ARE PRIMARILY A CONTINUATION OF CAMPAIGN BEGUN BEFORE TIN OO'S OUSTER, WITH THE POSSIBLE OBJECT OF DESTROYING THE 5TH BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS (IR 6812003376).
OSBORN

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